

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03873 032329Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 CAB-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 L-03
PSTE-00 CA-01 OC-06 CCO-00 PER-05 SS-15 /071 W
-----086710 042144Z /14

R 032307Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8283
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER AMCONSULS IN CANADA POUCH

UNCLAS OTTAWA 03873

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, CA
SUBJECT: STRIKES DISRUPT AIR CANADA SERVICE

REFS: OTTAWA 3754; OTTAWA 3706

1. WHAT CAN ONLY BE VIEWED AS A BREAKDOWN OF NATIONAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING HAS OCCURRED WITH AIR CANADA'S GROUND SERVICE PERSONNEL CONDUCTING WORK STOPPAGES IN TORONTO ON AUG. 2 AND MONTREAL AUG. 3. THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS (IAM) TENTATIVELY CAME TO A NEW COLLECTIVE CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH AIR CANADA'S NEGOTIATORS ON JULY 30. SINCE THEN, IAM LOCAL UNIONS IN TORONTO AND MONTREAL HAVE REJECTED THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND HAVE PRECIPITATED 36 AND 24-HOUR WORK STOPPAGES IN THOSE TWO CITIES, WHICH HAVE DISRUPTED FLIGHT SERVICE THROUGHOUT CANADA. MONTREAL AIR CANADA OFFICIAL REPORTS THAT THE COMPANY'S MARITIME PROVINCE LOCATIONS HAVE ALSO BEGUN A 24-HOUR STOPPAGE FROM 6:00 A.M. TODAY TO 6:00 A.M. AUG. 4. AUGUST 3RD PRESS REPORTS THAT 1,600 TORONTO-BASED EMPLOYEES WILL VOTE ON AIR CANADA'S LATEST CONTRACT OFFERS TODAY.

2. AN AIR CANADA MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE IN OTTAWA
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03873 032329Z

ADVISED THE PUBLIC ON EARLY MORNING TELEVISION TO DELAY TRAVEL PLANS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE UNTIL THE PRESENT DISPUTE IS OVER. AN IAM REPRESENTATIVE TOLD THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE THAT THE STRIKES WERE LEGAL UNDER THE CANADIAN LABOR CODE. A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE UNION WAS INVITING CONTROLLING LEGISLATION BY PARLIAMENT, IF AIR CANADA'S FLIGHTS

CONTINUE TO BE DISRUPTED.

3. TERMS OF THE TENTATIVE NATIONAL AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY THE PARTIES ARE NOT KNOWN NOR ARE THE POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT BY THE TORONTO AND MONTREAL UNION MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: THE LACK OF UNION DISCIPLINE IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CAN ONLY LEAD TO LEGISLATION THAT WOULD MANDATE PROHIBITION OF STRIKES IN SOME FORM SUCH AS THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY COMPULSORY ARBITRATION OR JUDICIAL DECREE, BOTH UNSAVORY TO ORGANIZED LABOR. DUEMLING

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